

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) In a fuel injection valve having a nozzle body with a nozzle hole(s) at its tip that is opened and closed by a nozzle needle housed in the nozzle body,

a fuel injection valve characterized in that an area of contact between the nozzle needle and a seat on the nozzle body is provided with a coating layer to reduce the frictional resistance with the nozzle body.

2. (Original) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating layer is provided over the entire surface of the nozzle needle.

3. (Original) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating layer is a C2 coating layer.

4. (Original) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating layer is a hard, amorphous carbon film fabricated by ionization vapor deposition.

5. (Original) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating layer is provided as a DCL thin film.

6. (Currently amended) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, ~~2-3 or 4,~~ wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 0.1 μm to 30 μm .

7. (Currently amended) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 1 μm to 5 μm .

8. (Currently amended) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein a coefficient of friction between the coating layer and the nozzle body is not more than 0.2.

9. (Currently amended) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~, wherein a coefficient of friction between the coating layer and the nozzle body is not more than 0.1.

10. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 0.1 μm to 30 μm .

11. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 0.1 μm to 30 μm .

12. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 4, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 0.1 μm to 30 μm .

13. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 1 μm to 5 μm .

14. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 1 μm to 5 μm .

15. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 4, wherein the coating layer has a thickness of from 1 μm to 5 μm .

16. (New) A fuel injection valve as claimed in claim 2, wherein a coefficient of friction between the coating layer and the nozzle body is not more than 0.2.